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INFORMATION REPORT

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[redacted]

1. Lomonosov University, Moscow, is located in an old building about 150 years old, supplemented by numerous new buildings. A new skyscraper consisting of 36 stories and four large wings, all destined to house lecture halls, laboratories, services, and private living quarters for the professors and an additional 10,000 students, is being constructed on high ground. The actual number of the students housed in the old university is already approximately 10,000. There are 12 faculties: literature, law, physics, chemistry, applied physics, mathematics, philosophy, economics, history, social sciences, biology, and geology. The medical school has its own institutes. Each faculty has its own council, led by a dean. The chemistry faculty is divided into three sections: organic, inorganic, and applied. That of biology is divided into two sections: zoology and botany.

25X1X 2. [redacted] visited almost all of the faculties, but in particular viewed closely those of chemistry and physics. All of the instruments of importance are of Soviet design and construction. His impression was that, for the most part, the design was inspired by similar German production. 25X1X [redacted] particularly noted an electronic microscope (type: EM-100) with a 100 kv potential acceleration. The Soviets are able to make enlargements of 200,000 diameters with it, informant was told. This instrument is utilized exclusively in metallurgical research for light alloys. A direct recording spectrograph, which has been improved considerably, is employed to avoid the use of photographic plates. [redacted] saw an excellent exhibition of an infra-red spectrograph like the most recent type by Baird Associates. Such instruments as the polarograph, the interferometer, and apparatus for the micro-analysis by X-rays with a Geiger-Müller counter are in use by the chemical faculty. The wide assortment of instruments on each bench in the laboratory allows the chemists to become familiar with a variety of physics instruments. 25X1X

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3. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that electronics is greatly developed; everywhere one finds Standard generators, vacuum-tube volt ammeters, and oscillators, all of Soviet manufacture. [redacted] believes that there was specific emphasis on research in organic chemistry. Samples of high polymers were being studied under high-frequency fields. Generators with Lecher wires were in evidence, which indicated that microwaves were being used. It was noted that a special Soviet school for the study of microwaves exists, created by the work of Glavolevska-Arkadeva. 25X1X

25X1X 4. [redacted] asked if the Soviets were studying catalysts at high frequencies. The answer was in the negative, at least as far as the University was concerned. However, during a meeting with representatives of the Academy of Sciences, while the latter topic was under discussion, he was told that this study is in progress but that it does not appear to have been developed or used to any great extent.

5. It appeared that the Soviets were studying only some improvements of electrocracking of methane.

6. At the University there were in progress many experments using the classical contact catalyzers (with bases of platinum and iron) which, according to informant, appeared to be for other than instructional purposes. The laboratories were very crowded and gave an atmosphere of intense and diligent activity.

7. The University has an eminently scientific character, and tends, therefore, to produce the cadres of researchers needed for the scientific institutes. The student body is highly selected. Sixty percent are medal winners, hence very distinguished students, who were admitted to the University because of scholarship. Ninety-five percent of the remaining students in all of the university departments receive a stipend in addition to paying no tuition. Entrance into the University is regulated by a special competitive examination which is quite difficult. The status of a student is determined on the basis of his own ability, not by the norm of outstanding students. Ninety-eight percent of the examinations taken by the entire student body are passed.

8. Specialization in any major field requires five years, with the exception of electro-technics, which requires six. At the conclusion of his studies the candidate must give a public dissertation. The general public as well as newspaper reporters is admitted. A large audience comes to listen.

9. The title of Doctor cannot be obtained until at least five years after the first dissertation, after the student has passed the intermediate grade of aspirant and has completed a notable study or work of original research. No experimental work is required but the Rector, Prof. Nesmeyanov (an organic chemist), stated that all of the work on dissertations for the various branches of chemistry and for physics contains an experimental portion. The possibility of a chemist or a physicist who does not know how to work in a laboratory is inconceivable, for "library" theses are generally rejected. The selection of a topic for the thesis is made by the student and, at most, is counselled by the professor.

10. The beginning salary of a professor is 4,000 rubles monthly, while 10,000 rubles monthly are paid to a full academic professor. The university assistants (fellows) start with a salary of 2,000 rubles per month. The monthly allowance of the students (around 500 rubles monthly) is dependent upon the caliber of the academic work of each individual.

11. In addition to the necessary instructional duties of the faculty, which are rather heavy, the faculty council assumes the responsibility for publications and editing. An earnest and constant relationship exists between the fellows (assistants) and students. At the drop of a hat, assemblies of fellows and students are convened to discuss widely varied problems of scholastic life.

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